

Washington, DC - U.S. Congressman Ciro D. Rodriguez (TX-23) issued the following statement regarding the 65th anniversary of D-Day, which is Saturday, June 6, 2009.

“Today marks the 65th Anniversary of D-Day, the Allied landing on the beaches of Normandy which was the turning point for the war in Europe and which led to the American and Allied victory in World War II. Today, two Texas veterans of D-Day are once again on the beaches of Normandy remembering their brothers-in-arms and the crucial events of that day.

Clyde Combs, 84

, and

Terrell Boyd, 85

, are being honored for their service on those hallowed grounds both personally and as representatives of the heroic men and women of Texas. Clyde was a PT-boat crewman who guarded our forces from German submarine attacks as they made their way to the beaches. Terrell was a soldier who had to jump into the water, struggle through obstacles, crawl on his belly onto the beach and try not to get killed as he made his way to the cliffs. There, he celebrated his 21st

birthday in a foxhole close enough to hear the Germans yelling out names for roll call.

Another Texan D-Day veteran, long since deceased, is Macario Garcia. Macario was born in Mexico and was earning his American citizenship on the beaches of Normandy. Macario, though not yet an American citizen, earned the Bronze Star, Purple Heart, and the highest award our country can bestow - the Medal of Honor - for his actions in Germany a few months after D-Day. He was also awarded the *Mérito Militar*, the Mexican equivalent of the Medal of Honor, the following year. He finally became a citizen and can be counted among the many heroes from Texas.

These men, among many other Texans both living and dead, are real heroes. They are what the movies only try to imitate. Today is a special day during which we should never forget the sacrifices of the thousands of soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines who risked, and in some cases gave, their lives in an epic battle to secure the freedom of not just America, but of the entire world. They sacrificed so people could be free from tyranny and persecution. Never forget the sacrifices they made and the sacrifices of their families in giving us their loved ones. Never forget June 6th, 1944.”

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